

## THINKING YOUTH

# YOUTH, PROSPERITY, AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

*Part of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development*

**Newsletter: Issue #1 | June 1, 2013**

We are pleased to present this first issue of the newsletter for the CSIS-IYF Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative. With half the world's population under the age of 30, global development, prosperity, and security are increasingly dependent on our collective ability—across public and private sectors—to capitalize on the productivity and potential of young people and ensure they have a stake in building a more stable and prosperous world. In partnership with the International Youth Foundation (IYF), the Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) will examine the opportunities and challenges facing young people around the world and expand the conversation about youth and global development, economic growth, and social progress. Nicole Goldin is the director of the Initiative.

The first major project of the CSIS-IYF Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative is the Youth Well-being Index. With principal support from Hilton Worldwide, this index exemplifies a cross-cutting, multi-stakeholder approach to better assess and strategically address youth well-being and global security.

### Youth and Global Development: A Conversation on Prosperity and Security (February 12, 2013)

In its inaugural public event, the Youth Initiative hosted a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing global youth with William Reese, chief executive officer, International Youth Foundation (IYF); Jennifer Silberman, vice president for corporate responsibility, Hilton Worldwide; Nancy Lindborg, assistant administrator for democracy, conflict, and humanitarian assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Orain Edwards, Atlas Corps fellow, Advocates for Youth. With an emphasis on public/private partnerships investing in the potential of youth, the panel discussed the necessity of program scale and sustainability and the most effective ways to engage youth in the development dialogue in order to increase the prosperity and well-being of all. Nicole Goldin, director of the Youth, Prosperity and Security Initiative, moderated the panel. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

*"We need a platform to create a higher-level dialogue that can convince governments, business sectors, and philanthropists to do the right thing, and to have young people part of this dialogue. Because if they don't believe we're going to work with them and not just for them, they won't buy into this, and they've got to be part of the solution. Building those types of partnerships is what we're all about."*

—William Reese, President and CEO, IYF

### Building Youth-Inclusive Democracies: Lessons from Kenya (March 14, 2013)

The Youth Initiative invited Earl Gast, assistant administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development; Zipporah Maina, president, Cheptiret Youth Bunge; Silas Maru, president, National Youth Bunge Association; and Sharon Morris, director of youth and conflict mitigation, Mercy Corps, to discuss the development

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and lessons of the “Yes Youth Can” program. The panel highlighted cross-sectorial successes of the program, including young people’s use of social media to establish an “Early Warning, Early Response” system within Kenya’s bungees to curb election violence, promote youth mobilization in civic engagement and women empowerment initiatives, and foster increased economic opportunity. The panel also discussed the challenges of bolstering youth-inclusive democracy in fragile states, access to employment and education opportunities, and program sustainability. Nicole Goldin moderated the conversation. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

### **Global Youth Well-being Index: Education Domain Workshop (March 19, 2013)**

The first in a series of domain workshops for the Youth Well-being Index focused on education. The workshop brought together education experts from Plan International, USAID, World Economic Forum, Brookings Institute, Child Trends, IREX, George Washington University, British Council, and a Plan International Youth Ambassador.

Participants engaged in lively discussions about indicators that included youth literacy, public education spending, and enrollment rates. They also raised key questions about measuring quality, equity, gender parity, and the importance of satisfaction and recognizing youth as active participants.

### **Roundtable on Creating Livelihood Opportunities for Young People (April 2, 2013)**

The Youth Initiative organized a roundtable discussion with the Youth Livelihoods Alliance (YLA), which was led by the International Youth Foundation. Participants engaged in a candid discussion about public/private partnerships designed to elevate the issue of youth livelihoods, and which align with the core business strategies of the private sector.

Johanna Nesseseth Tuttle, senior vice president for strategic planning at CSIS, provided opening remarks, followed by Zeenat Rahman, special adviser for global youth issues at the U.S. Department of State, who talked about the youth employment crisis and the growing emphasis on a blended, cross-sector approach toward promoting sustainable livelihoods. Jennifer Silberman of Hilton Worldwide and Tam Nguyen of Chevron Corporation discussed their corporate interests and experiences in promoting youth livelihoods. Ms. Silberman, Mr. Tam, and private- and public-sector leaders from USAID, MasterCard Worldwide, Laureate Universities, British Council, and other organizations expressed a shared desire to work closely with the public sector to better align development goals and business strategies early in the process. The group also discussed challenges faced by the private sector in addressing youth needs and explored areas of potential public- and private-sector partnerships that could address key issues through early codesign and evaluation. Nicole Goldin moderated the discussion.

### **Global Youth Well-being Index: Citizenship Domain Workshop (April 23, 2013)**

The second in the series of domain workshops for the Youth Well-being Index focused on Citizenship. Participants included experts and stakeholders from the National Democratic Institute, Innovations for Civic Participation, John Hopkins University’s Center for Civil Society, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, USAID, British Council, an Atlas Corp fellow with the POMED, and IYF.

Participants identified citizenship as a critical component of youth development, encompassing political and civic opportunity and participation. Discussions centered on measuring individual’s participation as well as enabling environments, community, benchmarks and the importance of youth outlook and perception.

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### A Conversation on the UN Youth Agenda with Ahmad Alhendawi (April 26, 2013)

The Youth Initiative hosted a dialogue with Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN secretary-general's newly appointed envoy on youth. The youngest envoy to the United Nations in history, Mr. Alhendawi discussed ways in which the United Nations is making its work more accessible to its partners and youth. He also talked about his new role, the establishment of the UN Panel on Youth, and the United Nations' System-Wide Action Plan in Youth, under which UN agencies will target youth issues collectively. In his talk, Mr. Alhendawi identified the opportunities and challenges facing global youth in education, employment, and civic participation and discussed the need for the "right" policies and investment to promote youth development. He also discussed the Millennium Development Goals and the prospects for the Post-2015 Millennium Agenda. Nicole Goldin moderated the conversation. (A video recording of this event is available [here](#).)

*"It's a great opportunity to invest in young people today...and this is the thinking of the United Nations. I am trying to encourage two-way communication between young people and the organization... Institutions need to be more accommodating for youth demands for participation."*

—Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations

### Global Youth Well-being Index: Health Domain Workshop (May 22, 2013)

The third in the series of domain workshops for the Youth Well-being Index focused on health. Participants included senior experts and young stakeholders from the USAID, UNFPA, International Center for Research on Women, Advocates for Youth, Population Reference Bureau, Pathfinder, CSIS, and the UN Foundation. Participants engaged in an informative discussion around health indicators that included youth sexual and reproductive health, emotional well-being and mental health, environmental health and tobacco use, mortality and life expectancy, as well as links to gender-based violence. Health was identified as a crucial component to youth development that impacts all other domains. Discussions centered on identifying the most useful indicators and associated data.

### Publications and Multimedia

#### Introducing the Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative. [\[Small Screen Session\]](#)

In this video, William A. Schreyer Chair and director for the Project on Prosperity and Development Dan Runde welcomes Dr. Nicole Goldin to CSIS and discusses the new Youth, Prosperity, and Security Initiative.

#### A Discussion on Global Youth Issues with Zeenat Rahman. [\[Small Screen Session\]](#)

In this video, Nicole Goldin discusses global youth issues with Zeenat Rahman, the secretary of state's special adviser for global youth issues.

#### A Conversation on the UN Youth Agenda with Ahmad Alhendawi. [\[Small Screen Session\]](#)

In this video, Nicole Goldin speaks with Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN special envoy on youth. Mr. Alhendawi discusses his new role at the United Nations and why he is dedicated to the youth agenda.

#### Key to Sustaining Momentum: Youth in the 2013 Human Development Report

By Nicole Goldin, March 28, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary on the extent to which youth have been considered in HDRs over the years, the emerging recognition of the centrality of youth to global prosperity and security, and the findings presented in the 2013 Human Development Report.

#### Want to End Poverty and Promote Prosperity and Security for All? Consider Youth

By Nicole Goldin, May 8, 2013 [\[Publication\]](#)

Commentary that in order to reduce poverty, promote global economic growth and social progress, policy-makers and donors should prioritize and act strategically to address the needs and aspirations of youth and leverage their resources.